



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-248

Proposal Title: Edina Hazardous Ash Tree Removal Program

Project Manager Information

Name: Matthew Gabb

Organization: City of Edina

Office Telephone: (952) 826-1611

Email: mgabb@edinamn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: To slow the spread of invasive emerald ash borer and maintain a robust tree canopy, Edina will create an ash tree removal program focused on low-income and multifamily housing.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$500,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species (D)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Metro

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) came to Hennepin County in 2009 and has done significant damage to Edina's tree canopy. In 2020 the City completed a grant-funded public street tree inventory that identified 2,000 ash trees needing replacement because EAB made them a public safety hazard. The City's NextGen Trees initiative used American Rescue Plan Act funds to plant 1,000 new trees. 250 of those were planted at affordable housing properties and 750 on public lands. However, the City has not had the financial capacity to identify and remove EAB-infested trees on private land. With those one-time ARPA funds exhausted, tackling the likely hundreds of infested trees on private land is cost-prohibitive for both residents and the City. Removing EAB-infested trees can cost thousands of dollars, making it cost-prohibitive for low-income families. This means infested trees remain, furthering the spread of invasive EAB and increasing the risk trees will fall and cause significant harm to a person or to homes, utility lines, and other vital infrastructure. LCCMR funds, however, would allow the City to scale this successful initiative by removing infested and hazardous ash trees, reducing the spread of invasive emerald ash borer, and achieving a robust tree canopy.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

With LCCMR funds, the City would establish an EAB removal program for residents, with a specific focus on low-income and multi-family unit housing in Edina. Due to limited staff capacity, the City would contract with a licensed arborist company. This contractor, selected via RFP, would remove trees from private lands. Over two rounds of removals in 2026 and 2027 (outside of EAB flight season, which is May through October), our goal is to have infested ash trees removed from at least 100 Edina properties.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The program's goal would be to remove EAB-infested ash trees from at least 100 properties. This would make a significant dent in our work to slow and reduce the spread of invasive emerald ash borer in Minnesota. The longer these hazardous trees stay in the ground, the higher the chance they will spread EAB and the more dangerous they become to public safety. This program will protect Edina's ash trees that are not currently infested, allowing our tree canopy to further thrive.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Contractor Tree Removal Work

Activity Budget: \$499,998

Activity Description:

Objective: City will work with a licensed arborist contractor to remove infested ash trees on private lands

- Contractor RFP will be prepared by City staff
- Selected contractor will be made an official City “vendor” with a two-year contract
- Once City connects contractors with residents, contractor will schedule removals with residents
- Contractor will report on each removal to City staff for grant reporting
- Removals will occur outside of EAB flight season, which occurs from May to October

Budget is not marked as \$500,000 because system would not let me input \$0 for Activities 2 and 3. Funding will go to Activity 1 while Activities 2 and 3 will be "in-kind" as part of City staff duties.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Contractor RFP developed	August 31, 2025
Contractor bids	October 31, 2025
Contracting with selected contractor	November 30, 2025
First round of EAB-infested tree removals complete	May 31, 2026
Second round of EAB-infested tree removals complete	May 31, 2027

Activity 2: Outreach

Activity Budget: \$1

Activity Description:

Objective & outcome: get at least 100 properties to participate in the program, including low-income and multi-family households

- City staff will engage with residents throughout the grant cycle
- Communications department will market the program through City newsletters, social media, neighborhood associations, and more
- Forestry and Engagement division staffs will do direct outreach at properties near clusters of infested ash trees identified in 2021 public lands inventory
- City staff will table at community events such as the Centennial Lakes Farmers Market, Arbor Day, and the Edina Art Fair

Budget is marked as \$1 because system would not let me input \$0. This will be "in-kind" as part of City staff duties.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Outreach near 2021-identified EAB clusters	March 31, 2026
Outreach for scheduling first round of EAB removals	March 31, 2026
Outreach for scheduling second round of EAB removals	March 31, 2027

Activity 3: Program Administration

Activity Budget: \$1

Activity Description:

Objective: make program logistics/administration as seamless as possible for the contractor, residents, and City staff

- City staff will manage the resident applications process
- City staff will connect enrolled residents with the contractor for scheduling
- Contractor will invoice the City on a scheduled pace (e.g., monthly or quarterly)
- City Finance department will pay contractor invoices

Budget is marked as \$1 because system would not let me input \$0. This will be "in-kind" as part of City staff duties.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
First round of resident applications closes	April 30, 2026
First round invoicing with contractor completed	June 30, 2026
Second round of resident applications closes	April 30, 2027
Second round invoicing with contractor completed	June 30, 2027
Final report to LCCMR	June 30, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Luther Overholt	City of Edina	City Forester	Yes

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Due to limited staff capacity, the City would not conduct the removals, but would contract with a licensed arborist company. Residents would apply to the program via the City, who will connect them with the contractor. The contractor will schedule with residents, remove infested trees, and invoice the City. The City will apply to other grant opportunities at the local, state, and federal levels to continue the program after the ENTRF grant ends. The hope is also that the pilot is successful enough to make the case to City Council to support its continuation with general fund appropriations.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Matthew Gabb

Job Title: Sustainability Specialist

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Matthew Gabb has multiple years of experience project managing both state and federal grants, including both at the university and local government levels. Gabb currently manages two MNDNR grants (including one forestry grant), one USDOT grant, and two USDOE funding opportunities.

Organization: City of Edina

Organization Description:

City of Edina in Hennepin County

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD (contractor selected through RFP process)	Professional or Technical Service Contract	With coordination assistance from the City, the selected contractor will remove EAB-infested ash trees from private properties in Edina				0		\$500,000
							Sub Total	\$500,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								

							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$500,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Total Project Cost: \$500,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [702a14ce-14b.docx](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Screenshot of Edina's NextGen Trees dashboard. Each of Edina's census tracts is shaded; the darker green the overlay the higher the tract's tree canopy. The purple, pink, and blue dots show affordable housing locations. The 1,000+ tree planting locations are mostly centered on affordable housing and low canopy areas....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Edina 2022 Audit & Financial Statements	885f770d-9c3.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City Manager Authorization Letter	2aee6a4e-83a.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Luther Overholt (City of Edina City Forester), Marisa Bayer (City of Edina Sustainability Manager)